

Election Bake Sale

By Welthy Mueller

Fall is in the air, leaves are falling, and soon it will be November and election time.

We are planning to have another bake sale as our money-raiser for museum upkeep. Each of our past bake sales has been a great success, so we hope to receive lots of donated baked goods to sell. Call me at 594-2316 to arrange donations. And thanks to all of you who have been so good about baking and assisting me with the previous sales! ♦

EHS to Affiliate with State Society

The Eagle Historical Society Board of Directors, at a special meeting, approved affiliation with the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Upon our acceptance, the state society will assist us in filing the necessary papers to become incorporated and to obtain tax-free status. Also, throughout the year it offers numerous workshops, at a nominal cost, which will assist us in the preservation and recording of artifacts, photographs, and papers that have been donated to the society.

Through affiliation with the state society, all members of the Eagle Historical Society will receive a card which will entitle them to a 10-percent discount on admission to all Wisconsin state historical museum sites. ♦

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Palestine School
- 2 "Wisconsin" by A. Tessene
- 3 Thurston's Shoe Repair Shop
- 3 Eagle Cornet Band
- 4 4th-Grade History Report – Rebecca Sunde
- 5 Eagle Goes to the Movies

Curator's Corner

By Elaine Ledrowski

The second floor of the museum was a scene of organized chaos for most of August and September. Shelving units were purchased, assembled, arranged and rearranged for easy access to our artifacts. One rolling rack was purchased and another was donated. These will be used to store vintage clothing.

All books belonging to the library were removed from bookcases, boxed and stored until the library staff will be able to sort through them. Books belonging to the Eagle Historical Society were unboxed and placed on the bookshelves. There is now a storage and work area and some semblance of organization.

Looking through the inventory and logs, I was surprised to discover a lack of sheet music. There are a few hymnals and music books, but not one musical instrument—not even a harmonica or kazoo. Considering the rich musical history of Eagle, this was surprising. According to the Eagle Quill, the Eagle Comet Band was established in 1885; it is often mentioned in articles. The band appeared in the Fourth of July parades and presented concerts in the park afterward. Occasionally a seventeen-voice chorus presented a program with the band. Programs were also presented at the Eagle Opera House. Any information, articles, pictures, programs, music, or musical instruments would be greatly appreciated. (*See related article on page 3.*)

I have also started a permanent display of promotional items from businesses in Eagle, past and present. If you have any promotional items and wish to donate them, it would be appreciated.

continued on page 3

Palestine School

The Palestine School, located at the junction of Highway 59 and Wilton Road, is part of the history of Eagle. H.R. Hinkley chose this parcel of Eagle Township on his land to be used for a log schoolhouse when the eldest three of his seven children were old enough to attend (1836). Leonard, Anna, and Francis were first; later eight or ten other families in the area went to school there.

The first building was used only a short time—in 1854 a frame school was built, and served the area for 74 years. The bell tower was added in 1880, according to older residents. Other details have been lost. Many of the teachers boarded with the Lediker family. One of the teachers' tasks was to start the wood fires which kept the school warm in winter.

Palestine School was the last one-room school grades 1-8 in the state, and was used until 1970; then Eagle used it for kindergarten classes. Nine years ago it became a day-care center. Country Kids Day Care has a staff of 9 and cares for 30 children, from 4 months to 12 years in age.

Herman Mueller

Herman Mueller served on the school board for many years. He came from Germany with his parents in 1887, when he was 7 years old. His brother and sister had come to America before them and were in the Eagle area, in Jericho.

Herman married Emma Thurloff on March 29, 1906, and settled on the farm on Wilton Road across from the present Winzenried horse ranch. The barn was built of hand-hewn timber from his land: hay on the upper level, cows and horses on the lower level. He also built the stone silo and other outdoor buildings, splitting stone for walls of the smokehouse and front porch. Their 3 boys and 3 girls attended the school. One of the boys, Edward, still farms in the area.

Edward Mueller

Edward Mueller worked for his father assisting with the farm work. They had no running water and heated with a hard-coal stove and cookstove.

To supplement their means they built, repaired, and painted buildings. Each spring sorghum cane was

planted. In fall the leaves were stripped off, it was tied in bundles and hauled to Rome to be pressed and cooked to the right consistency. After being poured into 10-gallon milk cans, the syrup was brought home, where relatives and friends bought some of it.

With the help of friends they built a silo, added on the outbuildings, and planted a grove of cedar trees as a windbreak.

The children helped until they were old enough to get jobs off the farm. Edward farmed nearby and helped with the work on his parents' farm until they died. The farm sold in 1968, and is now rented to Bob Winzenried. ♦

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin is for me and mine,
The very best in summer time.
The sun may shine – the wind may blow,
Just what will come – we never know.
For if we knew, as when a kid,
What Santa brought – need not be hid.
'Tis fun to hope – fun to plan.
To take a coat and need a fan.
Anticipation, that's the thing,
Just listen, and a bird will sing.
Travel north, south, east, or west –
Wisconsin state is of the best.

We had weather like this year on the farm years ago –
when I wrote this. A farmer lives from day to day.

--Alda E. Tessene

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE

PLACE – MUNICIPAL BLDG.

TIME – 7 A.M. – ?, Nov. 3

EHS ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE – TO BE ANNOUNCED

TIME – 1 P.M., Nov. 14

TOUR OF HOMES

TIME – SETUP, 8-12, Dec. 11

TOUR, 1-4, Dec. 12

Thurston's Shoe Repair Shop

By Irma Jolliffe

Carol came from Auburndale, Wisconsin, where his father was a harness maker. While in service he was stationed in Australia, where he was put on detached service to the quartermaster, repairing shoes.

After WWII he took training under the GI Bill and worked under John Engler, repairing shoes in Waukesha. The Thurstons bought the shoe repair shop in Eagle in 1949, but did not move here until 1957. (Shoe repair was a moonlighting job until Carol retired from Waukesha Motor Works in 1985.)

Carol repaired lots of farmers' shoes because they couldn't afford new ones. Once a customer brought in a pair of shoes that were beyond repair. When Carol explained that they could not be fixed, the customer suggested they be bronzed! ♦

Curator's Corner

continued from page 1

Welcome to new members Eleanor Martens of Eagle, Jerry Johnson of Milwaukee, and Doug and Darlene Landmann of Eagle.

Donations from July through October have been too numerous to list each item. The following have made recent donations:

Jerry Baker, Richard Baker, Bank One, Lisa Boucher, Jean Bowey, Mae Dahms, Mabel Finney, Dorothy Huglett, Irma Jolliffe, Don Jones, Betty Kau, Karen Kennedy, Elmer Kilian, Darlene Landmann, John Lueck, Marge Moots, Edward and Welthy Mueller, Marge Paukner, Chris Peters, John and Julie Platz, Conrad and Elaine Potrykus, Wayne and Jan Radebaugh, Carl and Lynn Seitz, Carol and Eris Thurston, Pat Wilton, and Marcie Winzenried.

Wish List

new or gently used items

padded coat hangers (for vintage clothing)

paper cutter

touch tone desk and wall telephones (Both of our phones are old enough to be in an exhibit!)

answering machine

Eagle Cornet Band Was a Popular Group

In the 1880s and 1890s the population of Eagle was predominantly German. For that reason, much interest in music was evinced.

In those years the Eagle Cornet Band flourished. Edmund J. Lins Jr. was the founder and director. He employed Thomas Williams of Milwaukee to teach and train the 16 to 20 members. For 10 years this band was one of the outstanding musical organizations of Waukesha County.

Musical history of Eagle is not complete without the record of its best-known musician, Charles Lurvey. From virtual infancy Charlie could play the piano, although he had never taken a lesson until he was in his teens.

Had Good memory

Not until he was in his early 20s did he study piano seriously. His musical memory was so unusual that, having heard a selection once, he could reproduce it without notes.

His first position was that of playing for a Mr. Thayer, a piano salesman. This job was followed by his playing for a Milwaukee store. After this he went to Chicago and studied with Glen Gillard Gunn.

Lurvey accompanied Maggie Teyte, a French singer; Italian singer Mme. Gadski; George Hamlin, a famous American tenor; and toured with Italian Claudia Muzio until her death. ♦

Attention, Shoppers!

Whether you are looking for cool-weather clothing or a gift for the holidays, remember, you don't have to leave Eagle in order to find a good-quality item at an inexpensive price. The Eagle Historical Society is selling sweatshirts with attractive line drawings of Eagle scenes for \$10 (\$11 for XXL). Be sure to drop in to see them at the museum.

Fourth-Grade History Report

My House

By Rebecca Sunde

Over 120 years ago Theresa and Joseph Von Rueden bought a homestead just outside of Eagle, WI USA. They came from Bavaria. They had several kids. One of them was George. When George grew up he married Josephine Breidenbach. They had five children. Their names were Ray, Bob (Ray's twin brother) , Gerald, Leona, and Rita. As the family grew bigger, and the house seemed to grow smaller, Ray and Bob moved to a one-room house just across the street. When they got married they added on three more rooms; those rooms were made from chinking and stones. They did not use much wood, because that was the Bavarian style. They grew many crops, like corn, hay, and pickles. Eileen (Ray's wife) can remember putting Band-Aids on her children's fingers because they had pickle thorns in them and they were bleeding. After many years, Ray died and the house was sold to the Doane family. Then they sold the farm to Robert Nelson. He remodeled the house and the farm. He did lots of landscaping.

Now I live here and work very hard every day. It is called Eagle Ridge Ranch. I hope you enjoyed my report and learned a lot. I had fun interviewing Eileen Von Rueden and I sure learned a lot about the old days.

(Note: The house is located at the junction of Highways 67 and NN. The picture shows it as it looked in the past.)



Eagle Goes to the Movies

By Jerry Johnson

Francis the talking mule frequently stopped by. So did Harvey the rabbit, King Kong, and Tarantula. They all shared Wednesday nights at the movies in downtown Eagle in the village square. Long before the days when television was common in every home, Eagle area citizens crowded the tiny park on Main Street and watched Hollywood films under the stars.

Mike Sasso says the films began running in 1937, 1938, or 1939. He recalls that at the age of 12, he would hurry home from his job as a golf caddy to watch the movies. My first-hand memories began in the early 1950s. In March 1951, my parents (Helen F. and Leonard A.) moved a mile south of Eagle to a 40-acre farm they had bought. My twin brother, Jim, and I would have been eight years old that summer.

Those Wednesday nights were really something to which we looked forward, especially since the nearest movie theaters were a mile away in Palmyra (Myers), Mukwonago (Vista), and East Troy (Troy). The Pix, Park, and Avon in Waukesha and Sprague in Elkhorn were even more distant. A trip to any of the theaters was rare, but I saw films in all of those cities, and the memories are still vivid.

The films in Eagle started at dusk, around 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. (prior to the introduction of daylight saving time). An older man who had considerable trouble walking always arrived with another person, possibly his daughter, and began setting up the theater. No one seems to have any idea who he was or where he came from. It is known that he had a circuit and played a different area village each night of the week. Mike Sasso remembers that there was a different exhibitor for the first five years; then this man took over and continued until the films ended in the late 1950s. It should be noted that traveling film exhibitors were quite common prior to television. This tradition can be traced back to at least 1898.

Two huge poles—perhaps discarded electric or telephone poles—had been set in the ground next to Brittingham and Hixon's lumberyard storage shed (now

demolished). Ropes held the movie screen (a white bedsheet). The projector was set up on the round cement bandstand (also demolished).

Cars parked around the square, in the lumberyard parking lot, and on Main Street. Jim and I and our two younger sisters would stake out space in the center of the square in front of the bandstand. Dad gave us one of his World War II olive drab Army blankets to sit on.

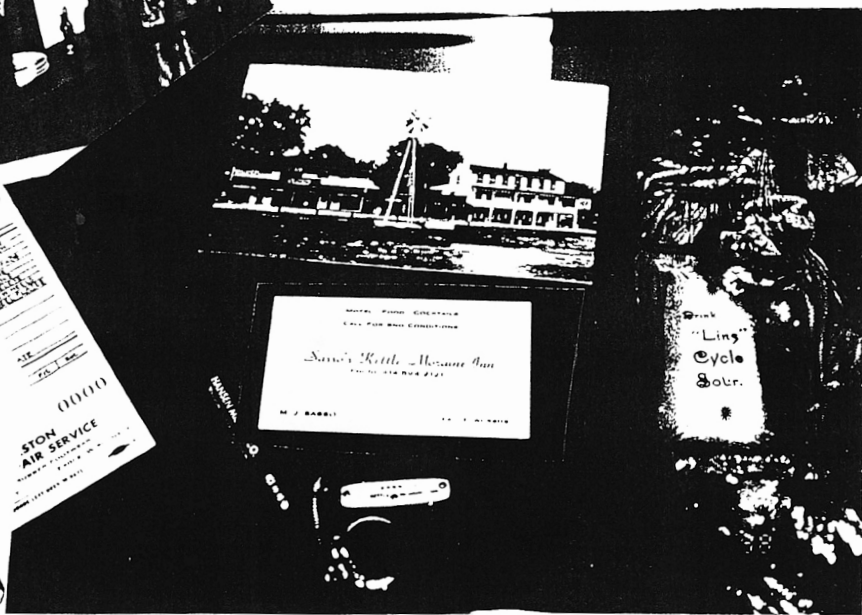
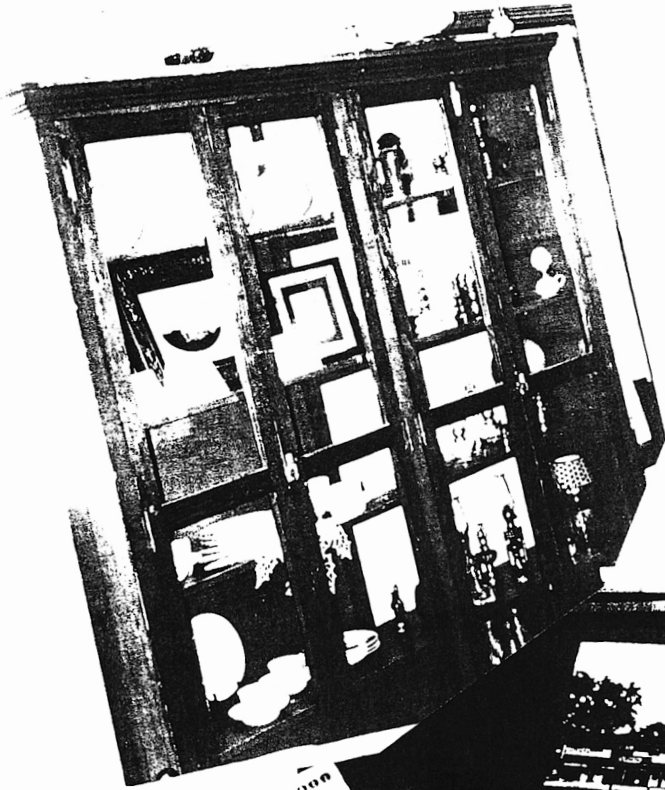
If the film was slow in starting, car horns would be heard until the film got under way. If talking in the audience got too bad (this was a problem at times), an announcement urging quiet was made on the speaker system.

Eagle businesses paid for the showings; at first, the charge was \$2 per business. In exchange, color slides were made up for each sponsor. Many of the slides were generic, with the name of the business below artwork. The woman always showed these slides during the intermission while the man changed the 16mm reels on the projector. Intermission ran at least 15 minutes, which allowed everyone to dash across the street to buy refreshments at the stores—Sherman's Grocery, Benson's Drugstore (which became Crosswaite's), and Krestan's IGA.

Mike reports that in the earlier years a serial was always shown prior to the feature. Since the film series ran from about June through August and serials usually consisted of 12 or 13 episodes, this worked out well. Mike remembers watching the Green Hornet one summer.

Announcements advertised the coming attractions. A variety of films made up the schedule: the Ma and Pa Kettle and Francis the talking mule series, Jimmy Stewart films (Strategic Air Command, Harvey, The Glenn Miller Story), war movies (To Hell and Back), and science fiction (King Kong, Tarantula). Some of the films were repeated in later years. Rain was a problem. Since there were no makeup dates, the film for a rainy date would not be shown after the date was skipped.

None of us remembers exactly when the movie showings ended; Jim thinks it was 1957 or 1958. In any case, as long as our memories exist, spiders, rabbits, gorillas, mules, and assorted kin will continue to lurk among the shadows of the Eagle village square every Wednesday night of the summer. ♦



EAGLE
Historical
Society

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Eagle Historical Society
217 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 454
Eagle WI 53119



**1999
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Return to: Eagle Historical Society
PO Box 454
Eagle WI 53119

Please check membership desired:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$25-\$49
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$50-\$99
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & over) \$8	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 & over

Membership year is January 1 to December 31 and dues are collected annually.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Amount enclosed _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to: Eagle Historical Society

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The museum is open on Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 and on Saturday from 11:00 to 3:00. Volunteers are needed to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research & summarize information for exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> Write articles for the newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catalog books | <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange display cases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory new donations | <input type="checkbox"/> Sew labels on artifacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catalog new donations | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on the newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clip & paste articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Perform general maintenance & clean up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like more information about the volunteer program | |
-